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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/753,218	12/28/2000	Darwin A. Engwer	003239.P067	9343

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EXAMINER

KADING, JOSHUA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2661

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,971

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, L. LLOYD

Examiner

Olisa Anwah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 and 4. 6) ☐ Other: .

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasiviswanathan, U.S. Patent No. 6,215,857 (hereinafter Kasiviswanathan).

Regarding claim 1, Kasiviswanathan discloses a method of providing direct access to a voice mail system (VMS) hosting a voice mail box associated with a service subscriber (see abstract), the method comprising steps of formulating a call set-up message for initiating the establishment of a call connection to the VMS, the call set-up message having a format reserved for a redirected call set-up message issued by a

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service switching point (SSP) in response to an uncompleted call to the service subscriber; and issuing the call setup message into a common channel signaling (CCS) network to initiate the establishment of the call connection directly to the voice mail box of the service subscriber (column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10; also see column 1 and Figures 4-5).

Regarding claim 2, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 3, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 5, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 6, Kasiviswanathan discloses a method of providing direct access (see abstract) to a voice mail box of a service subscriber to a voice mail system (VMS), the method comprising the steps of receiving at a call control application, a message sent in response to a request for direct access to the voice mail box by a requesting party; formulating a call setup message for initiating establishment of a call connection between the requesting party and the VMS, the call setup message having a format reserved for a redirected call setup message issued by a service switching point (SSP) in response to an

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uncompleted call to the service subscriber and sending the call set-up message into the CCS network to initiate the establishment of the call connection (column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10; also see column 1 and Figures 4-5).

Regarding claim 7, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 8, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 9, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 10, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 11, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 14, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

Regarding claim 15, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasiviswanathan in view of Weller et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,266,399 (hereinafter Weller).

Regarding claim 4, Kasiviswanathan discloses inserting a redirecting reason code into a redirection information parameter. Kasiviswanathan does not disclose the reason code being used by the VMS to select a voice mail prompt to play to the calling party. However Weller teaches this limitation (see abstract and Figure 2). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kasiviswanathan with the voice mail prompts taught by Weller. This modification allows calling parties to be provided with appropriate prompts as suggested by Weller.

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5. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasiviswanathan in view of Hyde-Thomson, U.S. Patent No. 5,557,659 (hereinafter Hyde-Thomson).

Regarding claim 12, Kasiviswanathan discloses receiving a connection request message that conforms to a predefined format and includes directory numbers for the requesting party, service subscriber and VMS. Kasiviswanathan fails to teach the receiving step is performed over an Internet protocol (IP) connection from a server on the Internet adapted to receive click-to-voice mail notifications from at least one worldwide web page. "Official Notice" is taken that this limitation is both old and well known in the art. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kasiviswanathan wherein the receiving step is performed over an Internet protocol (IP) connection from a server on the Internet adapted to receive click-to-voice mail notifications from at least one worldwide web page. This modification allows for voice mail to be sent over a graphical user interface as suggested by Hyde-Thomson (see column 17).

Regarding claim 13, from Kasiviswanathan, see column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 10. Also see column 1 and Figures 4-5 of Kasiviswanathan.

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olisa Anwah whose telephone number is 703-305-4814. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8.30 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 703-305-4895. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

O.A.

Olisa Anwah
Patent Examiner
March 25, 2004

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

